AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the present application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remains under examination in the application are presented below. The claims are presented in ascending order and each includes one status identifier. Those claims not cancelled or withdrawn but amended by the current amendment utilize the following notations for amendment: 1. deleted matter is shown by strikethrough for six or more characters and double brackets for five or less characters; and 2. added matter is shown by underlining.

1-16. (Cancelled)

17. (Currently Amended) A method of delivering a therapeutic dose of radiation to a patient comprising introducing a biocompatible, biodegradable filler device between a first tissue location and a second tissue location to increase a distance between the first tissue location and the second tissue location, and treating the second tissue location with the therapeutic [[a]] dose of radiation so that the presence of the filler device causes the first tissue location to receive less of the dose of radioactivity compared to the amount of the dose of radioactivity the first tissue location would receive in the absence of the filler device, wherein the filler device is introduced an injectable material and is a gel in the patient that is removed by biodegradation of the filler device in the patient wherein the first tissue location is associated with the rectum and the second tissue location is associated with the prostate gland.

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Original) The method of claim 17 wherein the filler is introduced into Denovillier's space.

20. (Cancelled)

21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17 wherein the filler comprises a member of the group consisting of alginate, gelatin, fibrin, fibrinogen, albumin, polyethylene glycol, thixotropic polymers, thermoreversible polymers, and mixtures thereof.

22. (Original) The method of claim 17 wherein the filler comprises at least one therapeutic agent.

23. (Original) The method of claim 22 wherein the at least one therapeutic agent is a member of the group consisting of an anti-inflammatory drug, an antibiotic, an antimycotics, a hemostat, a steroid, and an analgesic.

24. (Original) The method of claim 17 wherein the filler is biodegradable in vivo in less than approximately 90 days.

25-28. (Cancelled)

29. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 17 wherein the filler ~~biocompatible, biodegradable material~~ comprises an extracellular matrix molecule.

30. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 17 wherein the filler ~~biocompatible, biodegradable material~~ consists essentially of collagen.

31. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17 wherein the filler comprises at least one polysaccharide.

32. (Original) The method of claim 31 wherein the at least one polysaccharide is hyaluronic acid.

33. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 28 wherein the filler further comprises a member of the group consisting of a degradation inhibitor, a radio opaque marker, and an osmotic agent that causes water to become associated with the filler material by osmosis.

34. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 28 wherein the filler further comprises a buffering agent.

35. (Original) The method of claim 17 wherein the filler comprises a member of the group consisting of a degradation inhibitor, a radio opaque marker, and an osmotic agent that causes water to become associated with the filler material by osmosis.

36. (Original) The method of claim 17 wherein the filler comprises a buffering agent.

37. (Original) The method of claim 17 wherein the filler material comprises a synthetic polymer.

38. (Original) The method of claim 17 wherein the filler occupies a volume in the range of about 10 to about 200 cubic centimeters in a patient.

39.-64. (Cancelled)

65. (Previously Presented) A method of delivering a therapeutic dose of radiation to a patient comprising: (i) injecting anesthesia and (ii) injecting saline to expand the space between the first and second tissue location, wherein the first tissue location is associated with the rectum and the second tissue location is associated with the prostate gland and introducing a biocompatible, biodegradable filler device between the first tissue location and the second tissue location to increase a distance between the first tissue location and the second tissue location, said biocompatible, biodegradable filler being collagen and introducing collagen into Denovillier's space and treating the second tissue location with a therapeutic dose of radiation, said therapeutic dose of radiation, said therapeutic dose of radiation being 70 to 100 Gy, so that the presence of the filler device causes the first tissue location to receive less than 50% of the dose of radioactivity compared to the amount of the dose of radioactivity the first tissue location would have received in the absence of the filler device, wherein the filler device is removed by biodegradation of the filler device in the patient.

66. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17 wherein the filler comprises a member of the group consisting of polylactide, polyglycolide, polycaprolactone, poly(alpha-hydroxy acid).

67. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17 wherein the filler comprises alginate.

68. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17 wherein the filler comprises gelatin.

69. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17 wherein the filler comprises fibrin or fibrinogen.

70. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17 wherein the filler comprises albumin.

71. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17 wherein the filler comprises polyethylene glycol.

72. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17 wherein the filler comprises a thixotropic polymer.

73. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17 wherein the filler comprises a thermoreversible polymer.